About the introduction of compulsory primary education, I have only to repeat what I stated already, *viz.*, that the present idea of the Government is not to introduce compulsion.

The Director of Public Instruction has agreed to provide an appointment for the Ezhava lady graduate referred to by you, if she applies.

Your representations about scholarships to Ezhavas and the prevention of juvenile smoking are noted.

134. Muslim Education.

Mr. M. K. Makkaru Pillai (Member, Nominated) complained that the concessions in respect of Mahomedan education granted by G. O. No. E. 1989, dated the 31st May 1919, had not been given effect to in full and to the best advantage to the members of the Mahomedan community. The Member referred to a promise of Government to grant a site to a Mahomedan college to be built at Alwaye and detailed the circumstances under which that pledge had not been redeemed by the Government. He requested that that site might be given at least now. As regards the English schools to be opened for the benefit of Mahomedans, the Member pointed out that the Government had taken the necessary action only in respect of the Alleppey school. He requested that the proposed school at Chirayinkil might be soon started. In regard to the English school at Tiruvitankod, the arrangement agreed to was that the Government should give them a site and that the people interested should put up a building, the school being till then held in the Mahomedan Association building. Though more than 4 years had elapsed since the issue of the G. O. quoted above, the site had not yet been given, in spite of the fact that the people on their part had deposited Rs. 4,000 in the local Taluk treasury as a token of their earnestness in the matter. The Member requested early action in the matter of the site being acquired and handed over to the people, so that the school might be held in the new building as early as practicable. The Member then made the following requests:—

1. Arabic should be taught within school hours just like Tamil in Malayalam schools and Malayalam in Tamil schools.

2. The rule that a teacher in a Mahomedan primary school should teach Arabic also should be changed and it should be laid down that Arabic should be taught by a separate Munshi.

3. Grants-in-aid should be given to Arabic Munshies employed in private Mahomedan schools.

4. The ordinary rule in regard to the award of grant-in-aid, namely, a minimum strength of 16 in respect of backward communities, should be strictly enforced, since, as the rule stood at present, difficulties were being experienced by the Mahomedan community in securing grant-in-aid in cases where the strength fell below 25.

5. Under the existing rule Arabic Munshies were appointed only when there was an actual strength of 25 Mahomedans in a mixed school. The Member requested that that rule be changed so as to admit of Arabic Munshies being appointed even in those schools in which, according to the Mahomedan Inspector, there was the prospect of the admission of 25 Mahomedan pupils during the school year.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.—(*Continued.*)

135. Needs of the Mahomedan Community.

Mr. M. K. Makkaru Pillai (Member, Nominated) spoke about the backward condition of Mahomedans in respect of education and thanked the Government for the boons already conferred on the community in that respect. He, however, maintained that no appreciable progress could be made unless and until primary education was made compulsory among Mahomedans. The Member then dwelt upon the urgent need of empowering the Mahomedan Inspector of Schools to appoint Arabic munshies. It was an old subject represented in several previous sessions of the Assembly; but the request had not yet been granted.

As regards the admission of Mahomedans in the public service, the Member concurred in the views of Mr. P. S. Mahomad.

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